

## **Harrisonburg Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (HBPAC)**

### **Meeting Summary**

June 15, 2009, 5:30pm, 409 S. Main Street

#### **1. Welcome/ Introductions**

Present were: Charlie Chenault, Len Van Wyk, Jonathan Lantz-Trissel, Ben Wyse, Bill Blessing, Paul Johnston, Adam Fletcher, Lee Eschelman, Jenna Deetz, Drew Williams, Sgt. William Keller, Thanh Dang

#### **2. Review Compiled List of Needs**

Committee members reviewed the community list of needs for pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, shared use path facilities and proposed key destinations. These lists were compiled from information received from committee members and citizens.— *see attached*. Citizens are still welcome and encouraged to provide additional suggestions and feedback.

A committee member stated that at the Mayor's Sustainability Summit, Chicago Avenue came up in discussion. (Chicago Avenue has been a priority also at the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee meetings and Waterman Safe Routes to School Task Force meetings.) Mr. Van Wyk asked if bicycle lanes could be stripped on Central Avenue between South Ave and Maryland Ave. Sgt. Keller asked about sidewalks on Central Ave between Pleasant Hill Rd and South Ave. These items will be added to the lists.

There was discussion of Tucson, AZ's effective use of bollards redirecting motor vehicle traffic to make cut through traffic less comfortable, but still accommodate bicyclists and pedestrian through movements. Committee members discussed how it may not be feasible in Harrisonburg due to our insufficient grid system. It was also brought up that bollards or other barriers may make it difficult for emergency, trash pickup, and snow plow services as well as inconvenience to existing neighbors.

There was discussion about shared use paths and conflicts with drive entrances. Ms. Dang will explore guidelines and how other localities have handled these situations.

The Committee discussed two options for bicycle route signage as presented at last month's meeting. Committee members expressed that they liked the second option, as shown in the AASHTO bicycle facilities guidebook better because it named the destination and was easier to understand. Mr. Johnston inquired whether existing bicycle route signage in the city could be modified and used. Ms. Dang responded that she and Public Works staff will explore that opportunity – it appears like some of the signs can still be used with the new style, but not all.

There was discussion about what types of streets should have stripped bicycle lanes, but the question was left unresolved. It was agreed that share the road signage is appropriate on low volume routes.

The Bicycle Plan should consider connections with destinations and other bicycle facilities.

#### **3. Vision, Ideas, Written Narrative**

The Committee was asked to provide thoughts on what should be included in the bicycle and pedestrian plan vision and written narrative. Committee members stated that the city should move away from a car centered focus and be more multimodal. There was discussion about designing for “complete streets.”

There was a discussion about many streets in the city being “too” wide and that roads should be narrowed. There was discussion about the city’s and our nation’s history of being car oriented. Mr. Williams explained that new developments must meet new Design & Construct Standards that require in many cases the construction of new pedestrian facilities and consideration of bicycle facilities as defined in the Bicycle Plan. Street trees should be encouraged to help make streets feel narrow, causing motorists to slow down, which results in making the street more safe/comfortable for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Bicyclists need to follow the rules of the road as many have been seen running red lights and without lights after dark. Mr. Wyse said that he requested feedback on bicycle & pedestrian needs from colleagues at the Public Transit Department. The most common response he received was frustration that “bikes don’t follow rules of the road.” Sgt Keller stated that enforcement is often difficult and would be easier if there was clear and appropriate infrastructure for bicyclists. Committee members agreed that education is important and it was expressed that the city should invest more in education for bike safety. (Existing K-12 bicycle safety programs were recognized.)

Transit ridership needs to be encouraged.

#### 4. Proposed Timeline for Tasks

- a. July – Meeting Cancelled; Ms. Dang to send draft of Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans Narrative for Committee review
- b. August 17 - Review Draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Narratives
- c. September 21, 6:30PM-8:30PM at Thomas Harrison Middle School - Public Information Meeting – time and place confirmed. Committee members are encouraged to begin letting friends, family, etc know.
- d. October – Finalize Prioritization

#### 5. Adjourned @ 5:40pm.

**Next meeting will be on August 17th, 5:30pm at 409 S Main Street.**

## **Pedestrian Needs**

**Last Updated: June 26, 2009**

Identify segmented sidewalks, need for ADA ramps, new sidewalk needs, crosswalk needs, pedestrian signal needs, etc. (For shared use paths, see Bike Needs List)

### Sidewalks

#### Northeast

- N Main St across from Community Services Board, Contact Jean Jackson, 434-6256 for comment
- Sterling Street between E Market St and Effinger. To help students get to Spotswood Elementary, Contact Marilyn Turner, RMH Community Health, 236-6638 or Karen Thomas, NE Neighborhood Association.
- Pear St / Pleasant Valley Rd near Summit House , Contact Jean Jackson, 434-6256 for comment
- Kids living on Hawkins and Norwood have no safe way to cross Reservoir St to get to school and to the Kiwanis Park playground. No sidewalks on the east side of Reservoir to use crosswalk at Carlton. Contact Marilyn Turner, RMH Community Health, 236-6638
- Gay St between Broad St to Hill St – Contact Karen Thomas, NE Neighborhood Association
- Kelly St – north side – from Simms Ave to Hill St – Contact Karen Thomas, NE Neighborhood Association
- Myrtle St from Washington to Kelly and between Effinger to Rock, one side – Contact Karen Thomas, NE Neighborhood Association

#### Southeast

- Ott Street from Market to Franklin, sidewalks not continuous. Contact Marilyn Turner, RMH Community Health, 236-6638
- Country Club Road – Trailer Park to Linda Lane – Cindy Reeves, Safe Kids, schools.
- Old Furnace Rd from Vine St to Smithland - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
- Vine Street from E Market St to Old Furnace Rd – 2005 Pedestrian Plan
- Blue Ridge Drive – 2005 Pedestrian Plan
- Reservoir Street Corridor between Myers and Cantrell – 2005 Pedestrian Plan
- Reservoir Street between Neff Ave and ECL - Public Works, JMU, Bike/Ped Committee, TSC
- Commercial Connector , University Blvd, Medical Ave, Neff Ave, Deyerle, Evelyn Byrd - 2005 Pedestrian Plan

#### Northwest

- Virginia Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> streets, both sides - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, SRTS-Waterman Task Force

- 3<sup>rd</sup> St between Colicello St to Chicago Ave – SRTS-Waterman Task Force
- Chicago Ave from Rockingham Dr to 2<sup>nd</sup> St – SRTS Waterman Task Force
- N Willow St from 2<sup>nd</sup> St to Gay St – SRTS Waterman Task Force
- Gay St – N Dogwood Dr to Willow St – SRTS Waterman Task Force

#### Southwest

- Chestnut & Dogwood Avenue - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
- Garbers Church Road? – 2005 Pedestrian Plan
- Maryland Ave from Chestnut to Dogwood – Cindy Reeves
- S Main St from Mosby Rd to SCL – Thanh
- Central Avenue – Pleasant Hill Road to South Avenue
- Pleasant Hill Road – Main Street to Pear Street

#### ADA Ramps

- Chicago Ave between Gay St & Wolfe St

#### Crosswalks and/or Pedestrian Signals

- Downtown – Pedestrian Signals needed at each signalized intersection on Main St and Liberty St.

#### Other

- Transit Corridor & Bus Shelters – Coordination with Public Transit

## **Bicycle Needs**

**Last Updated: June 26, 2009**

May include bike lanes, share the road signage, parallel drainage grates, etc.

### Storm Grates - Change orientation of storm drainage grates

- S Main St northbound, between Water St & Court Sq (2)
- Gay St eastbound, before Liberty St (1)
- S Main St northbound, at Newman (2)

### Bike Lanes

- Old Furnace Rd - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
- Bicycle Lanes/ Wide outer lane on S Main Street from Cantrell south – Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
- Erickson/Stone Spring Connector – happening now
- Reservoir St, Neff Ave to ECL – under design
- Chicago Ave – Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, SRTS-Waterman Task Force
- Central Avenue – Maryland Ave to South Ave – SVBC member
- Evelyn Byrd Ave – SVBC member
- Bluestone Hills Dr & Crystal Ln – SVBC Member
- Pleasant Hill Rd – SVBC Member
- Reservoir Street – Neff Avenue to ECL – JMU
- Mason Street – JMU Accessibility Committee
- Acorn Drive ?

Share the Road (wide curb lane, etc)

- S Main St from Cantrell to SCL

### Other Needs

- Map – Bicycle Route Map
- More Bicycle Racks
  - Downtown – Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance
- Bicycle/Motorist Education
  - Identified partners/programs – Bike Rodeos, Safe Kids, RMH Community Health, Parks & Rec, Public Works, Transportation Safety Commission, Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Bike-Ped Committee, Harrisonburg City Public Schools, Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition, International Walk to School Day, ....

## **Joint Bicycle & Pedestrian Needs**

**Last Updated: June 26, 2009**

### Shared Use Paths for Bicyclists & Pedestrians where appropriate

- South City Connection/ Cracker Barrel Trail & Spur to Greendale Rd – Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
  - Westover Park to Thomas Harrison MS - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
  - W Market St/ THMS to Wyndham Woods - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
  - Circle Dr to Hillandale Park - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee
  - Ashby Crossing to JMU Arboretum - Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, JMU Students
  - Ashby Crossing/ Port Rd Athletic Complex to JMU – JMU students
  - Linda Lane to Smithland Park – Advisory Committee
  - Wyndham Drive
- 
- Chicago & Waterman Drive intersection – Bicycle/ Pedestrian Committee
  - Mt. Clinton Pike – 2005 Pedestrian Plan, Cindy Reeves, Reagan Eschelman, Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee

## **Destinations – for bike route signage**

**Last Updated: June 26, 2009**

- City Parks – all parks or only “larger” parks?
  - Hillandale Park
  - Kiwanis Park
  - Westover Park
  - Purcell Park
  - Morrison Park
  - Ralph Sampson Park
  - Liberty Park
  - Denton Park
  - Smithland Park
- City Schools
  - Keister Elementary
  - Spottswood Elementary
  - Smithland Elementary/ Skyline Middle School
  - Waterman Elementary
  - Stone Spring Elementary
  - Thomas Harrison Middle School
  - Harrisonburg High School
- Institutions
  - Eastern Mennonite University
  - James Madison University – CISAT, Main campus, Memorial Hall?
  - Rockingham Memorial Hospital (new location)
- Downtown